20-1-2

6 FE3 1960

Honorable Joseph 5. Clark United States Senate Washington 25. D. C.

Dear Senator Clark:

When you were recently here for lunch, you asked for some information on the volcanic eruption in Hawali and the formation of islands by eruptions in the Azores.

I have looked into this and find out that volcanic eraptions are rarely accompanied by seismic disturbances large enough to be detected at distant stations, but may be detected acoustically if the exuption is explosive in nature. Since meither the Hawalian eguption nor the island-forming activity in the Azores was explosive in nature, they were not detected.

Sincerely,

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Allen W. Dulles Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Senator Clark's Questions on Volcanic Eruptions

- 1. Attached for use in your response to Senator Clark is a brief statement in reply to his questions on the volcanic eruption in Hawaii and the formation of islands by eruptions in the Azores.
- 2. The statement points out that distant seismic signals are rarely obtained from volcanoes, that acoustic detection is possible only when the eruption is explosive in nature, and that neither the Hawaiian volcano nor the island-forming activity was detected since they were not explosive.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director

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ATTACHMENT:

As stated

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